



LIVED EXPERTS GUIDE AND DRIVE THE WORK ON PREVENTION OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.

Prevention Steering Committee

GOAL: Establish a steering committee of lived experts, both youth and caregivers, to work in tandem with a cross-system coordinating body that includes agency stakeholders, legislators, community-based organizations working in prevention oversee the implementation of the recommendations set for forth in the Shifting Services and Systems to Prevent Youth Housing Instability strategic plan.

Communities of Color Coalition (C3), Innovations HTC (IHTC) and the Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) are collaborating to ensure that policies, services and programs that serve all youth, especially those who are disproportionately represented in the homeless population are designed and informed by those who are impacted by them.

To do this, it is important to ensure that youth and families who are disproportionately represented in housing unstable population can inform and design new policies, services and system changes.

Developed in partnership with



Paid opportunity lived experts of housing instability (18-30 years) and caregivers.
Starting July 2022 | Part time consultation.

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Youth of color¹, youth with intellectual or developmental disabilities² and LGBTQ2 youth³ are disproportionately represented in the housing unstable population across the US and Washington state.

In November 2020, at the direction of the WA State Legislature, C3, IHTC, and OHY collaborated to establish a Steering Committee to co-design a strategic plan on the prevention of youth and young adult homelessness and other related negative outcomes. The Steering Committee was made up youth between the ages of 15–30 who have experienced housing instability between ages 12–24, and caregivers who have personal experience supporting Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, two-spirit (LGBTQ2+), or young people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD).

The final strategic plan, [Shifting Services and Systems to Prevent Youth Housing Instability](#), co-authored by members of the previous iteration of the Prevention Steering Committee with support from C3, IHTC, and Foster America, was published in September of 2021. The plan makes recommendations along four main pillars: supporting whole family well-being; universal support for basic human rights; eliminating racism in systems and supporting youth and families impacted by them; and shifting resources to BIPOC communities.

C3, IHTC, and OHY team are now working to support the re-establishment of the Prevention Steering Committee. Committee members will work with one another and in tandem with other stakeholders as a part of a larger Youth Homelessness Prevention Workgroup to develop a work plan and analyze the fiscal needs for the implementation of the recommendations set forth in the strategic plan. The Work Group will include state agency leaders, legislators, community-based organizations and other key stakeholders working in prevention. The Prevention Steering Committee members will be compensated for their expertise and time.

The Steering Committee will work in conjunction with the rest of the Youth Homelessness Prevention Workgroup to:

- 1) Identify state agency leads for each of the recommendations to ensure high priority recommendations are incorporate into agency asks to the legislature.
- 2) Develop a plan to coordinate action across system to implement the Plan's recommendations and ensure accountability measures are in place to ensure implementation efforts are in accordance with the vision of Steering Committee
- 3) Incorporate Steering Committee members into existing legislative workgroups, or develop new workgroups as necessary, to champion Plan recommendations.

Background:

The Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) and has been directed by the Legislature to convene a Youth Homelessness Prevention Workgroup to implement the recommendations of the strategic plan to prevent youth and young adult homelessness and other negative outcomes.

¹ <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/#finding-five>

² <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/evidence-based-living/202009/what-we-know-about-homelessness-and-intellectual-disability?eml>

³ <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/lgbtq-youth-homelessness/>

Steering committee composition

a. Race, ethnicity, age and identity factors: The team intends for the Prevention Steering Committee to be made up of:

- 90% of people who identify as people of color (with priority given to black, native, latinx and Pacific Islander communities).
- 60% will have lived experience of homelessness when they were between the ages of 12 to 24 (youth committee members can be between the ages of 18 to 30).
- 40% will identify as parents or caregivers who have had a child who experienced housing instability or experience with one of the factors in section 2c
- At least 25% of the committee will be made up of youth experts with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and autism; and those who identify as caregivers for youth with I/DD and autism.
- At least 25% of the committee will be made up of LGBTQ2 youth, with an emphasis on trans or gender non-binary youth, and caregivers who identify that they have cared for LGBTQ2 youth.

b. Geographic mix: Prevention Steering Committee members will represent urban and rural areas with a mix of eastern and western parts of the state.

c. Other factors: Caregiver members will have supported a youth with one or more of these experience while a youth lived expert will have direct experience with one or more of these root causes (these factors are included to ensure diversity of voices driving the committee)

- Severe mental illness
- Child protective services involvement
- Family conflict due to gender identity or sexual orientation
- Substance use disorder
- Truancy
- Poverty
- Family homelessness
- Involvement with the justice system, including county courts

3. Recruitment:

To ensure intersectional identities are represented in the Prevention Steering Committee, the team aspires to engage young people with lived experience and parents of children with other identities such as gender identity, sexual orientation, intellectual and developmental disability, autism, mental illness, from communities disproportionately represented in the housing unstable population thus:

- Black
 - Urban - 2 parents and 2 youth
 - Rural- 1 parent and 1 youth
- Native
 - Urban - 1 parents and 1 youth
 - Rural - 2 parent and 2 youth

- Latinx
 - Urban - 1 parent and 1 youth
 - Rural - 1 parent and 1 youth
- Pacific Islander
 - All regions - 1 parent and 2 youth
- Non-latinx immigrant
 - All regions- 1 parent and 1 youth
- White
 - Rural 1 parent and 1 youth

The team aspires to have at least one I/DD and one LGBTQ2+ youth from each sub population identified in Section 3 to ensure impact of intersectional identities is understood, unpacked and designed for through the steering committee. System involvement such as juvenile or drug court involvement and CPS involvement for parents will be considered priority for available seats.

Outreach will be done directly to organizations working with and designed by communities of color in urban and rural parts of the state. Posters, recruitment email will be shared with a direct link to fill in a digital interest form for the committee positions. Jo Bechtold will also accept direct emails from organizations with referrals. Emails will be follow up with phone calls to fill out the form.

Data collected from recruitment forms will only be used to ensure diversity of the committee members.

Committee members will be selected based on intersectionality and ability to commit time for the work with support from lived

team. Data from the be stored by any state by Innovations HTC. data will not be retained after the start of the enable the team to who showed their in sub-committees.

Data generated and session will be anonymized unless to be shared with their



experts on the planning application forms will not agency and is maintained Applicants' identifiable for more than 6 months Steering Committee to contact any applicants interested in participating

stories shared during the automatically requested by participant identity.